GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:283
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ACROSS RIVER BASINS
Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has banned construction works across several river basins including Ganga and Teesta;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Governments have requested the Union Government to relax this ban; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.283 to be answered on Wednesday, the 9th December, 2009 on "Construction Projects across River Basins"

(a) & (b) No Sir. However, the Union Minstry of Power and the State Government of Uttarakhand have suspended the works of the projects of Loharinag Pala, Pala Maneri and Bhaironghati on river Bhagirathi due to agitation by certain environmental groups. Regarding the projects on Teesta basin, the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests has advised the State Government of Sikkim to avoid projects of dams and developmental activities above Chungthang area due to ecological and geological sensitivity.

(c) & (d) The State Government of Sikkim has requested the Union Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) to reconsider its stand regarding proposed projects above Chungthang area. MoEF has advised the Government of Sikkim to provide complete technical data from a competent source for further consideration of the request. In response, the State Government has submitted the report very recently.